

Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning March 3rd, 2019

Quote to carry in your heart this week

“Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.” Psalm 92

March 3rd is the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. “Practice of Hope – Challenged to live as the Just One, we take steps to ensure that our speech and actions consistently show forth Christ, who seeks to bear fruit in us. This resolve is strengthened through daily reflection and attention to how we engage others and God’s creation. ♦ When tempted to judge others, pause to consider your words and actions and take extra care that both consistently show forth the goodness of Christ at work in you. ♦ Learn more about Salesian spirituality, which offers wisdom for integrating faith and daily life: www.oblates.us/our-charism/salesian-spirituality/. ♦ As you examine in prayer your words and actions, hold fast to these words of encouragement: “Have patience with everyone, but especially with yourself. I mean, do not be over-troubled about your imperfections, but always have courage enough at once to rise up again when you fall into any of them” (“Upon Discouragement” in *The Spirit of Saint Francis de Sales*, by Jean-Pierre Camus).” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 51

“Scripture Insights > The integrity and credibility of a person is evident in the words that he or she speaks. Today’s readings help us reflect on our tendency to overlook our faults but judge others. These Scriptures provide an opportunity to examine our needs to act harshly towards others while kindly to ourselves. As we are only a few days before entering the season of Lent, this is an apt time for such reflection. In today’s First Reading, we hear several wise saying of Ben Sira, the author of the Book of Sirach. Each is a metaphor to help us recognize that our secret motives and intentions will be revealed in our words. Whether good or bad, we cannot keep them hidden. In the Second Reading, Paul recalls the words of the prophet Hosea and exclaims, “Where, O death, is your victory?” This question is rhetorical insofar as it is designed not to elicit an answer but to emphasize a point. He knows without a doubt that death will never be victorious, because God have us victory over sin and death through the crucified Christ. Earlier in this letter, Paul describes Christ as God’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). The Gospel presents Jesus as introducing a parable with the rhetorical query, “Can a blind person lead a blind person?” What follows is a collection of wise sayings about not judging others lest you come under judgment yourself. The teaching follows upon promises that the poor and disenfranchised will be blessed in God’s kingdom and that one’s enemies should be loved.

- The reading from Sirach states that no one should be praised before speaking. What is revealed in a person’s words?
- Daily upon awaking and before sleeping, pray “Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.”
- Ask Jesus to help you remove the “wooden beam” from your eye so that you can see clearly and not judge others.”

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The Season of Nonviolence – January 30 – April 4 – We learn to practice nonviolence one step at a time, one choice at a time, one day at a time. This is how each of us, in our own way, move the world in the direction of peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions at home, at school, in the workplace and community. This is the season of nonviolence. The Gandhi King Season of Nonviolence commences on January 30 and marks the 64 days between the memorial anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and that of Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4th. Individuals, schools and organizations in 900 cities in 67 countries have participated since the campaign began in 1998. The objective is to create an awareness of nonviolent principles and practices as a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and communities. It is, therefore, the purpose of the Season and the following of the 64 Daily Practices to educate and inspire individuals and organizations alike to actively seek out nonviolent means by which to empower themselves and others to co-exist in peace and prosper together in community.

Website > www.gandhifoundation.ca Email us at gandhifoundationcanada@gmail.com To manage your subscription to our email list visit > <http://www.mailman.srv.ualberta.ca/mailman/listinfo/gandhifoundationcanada>

Month of St. Joseph – The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of the Lord. St. Joseph was the favourite saint of St. Teresa of Avila, and of many popes, including Pope St. Pius X and Pope [St.] John XXIII, who wrote: “O glorious Joseph! Who concealed your incomparable and regal dignity of custodian of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary under the humble appearance of a craftsman and provided for them with your work, protect with loving power your sons, especially entrusted to you. You know their anxieties and sufferings, because you yourself experience them at the side of Jesus and of His Mother. Do not allow them, oppressed by so many worries, to forget the purpose for which they were created by God” (Prayer for Workers). Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, of workers, of [Canada], and the universal Church.” *St. Joseph, pray for us!*” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 51-52

March 6th is **Ash Wednesday**. "...is one of the most-loved days on the entire liturgical calendar. Coming together to hear the Lord's call to repentance, and to receive the blessed ashes, is part of what makes us Catholic. The Collect of Ash Wednesday is one of the most startling prayers we hear all year. This prayer uses imagery of warfare in describing Lent: "Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting / this campaign of Christian service, / so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, / we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint." This is a different kind of warfare: it is a battle that takes place within us. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, our "self-restraint," are the only weapons we have in our fight against evil. But with God's grace to help us, these weapons are enough. The use of ashes as a sign of repentance goes back thousands of years, and is referenced frequently in the Jewish scriptures. In the early Church, penitents – baptized person who had committed grave sins – would come to the bishop at the beginning of Lent, and be marked with ashes as a sign of their repentance. After a period of rigorous penance, they would be welcomed back to the sacraments at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. As time passed, the ashes began to be given to all the faithful at the beginning of Lent. The ashes are a reminder of where we come from – ashes to ashes, dust to dust – but they are also a call to repentance. Traditionally, the ashes are made from the burning of palms from last year's observance of Palm Sunday: in that sense, they are also reminders that we are destined for glory with Christ." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, pages 10-11

March 7 is the memorial of **Saints Perpetua and Felicity**, Martyrs. "Saints Perpetua and Felicity are Christian martyrs who died on March 7th, 203. Perpetua was a noblewoman of Carthage in North Africa and Felicity her slave. The account of their imprisonment is thought to have been written by Perpetua herself, one of the first writings by a woman in Church history. The sufferings of the two women were compounded by the fact that Perpetua was a new mother, separated from her unweaned baby, and Felicity was in the last month of pregnancy, anxious about her unborn child. Two deacons bribed the guard and were able to get into the jail, bringing Perpetua's baby with them, and she was able to keep him with her and nurse him. In spite of attempts by her father to persuade her to deny her Christian faith, Perpetua kept her resolve. For refusing to sacrifice to the gods, Perpetua, Felicity, and four companions were condemned to be thrown to the beasts in the games. Because of a law forbidding the execution of pregnant women, Felicity feared that she would be separated from the others, but she gave birth two days before their day of execution. Eventually, a basilica was built in Carthage over the site of their grave; an ancient inscription with their names can still be seen. Saints Felicity and Perpetua are patron saints of mothers, pregnant women, and the city of Carthage." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 54 *Perpetua and Felicity, inspire in us the kind of courage you had. When you see a pregnant woman today, think of Perpetua and Felicity.*

March 8th is **International Women's Day**. This is a "global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. This year the theme for the day is Poverty is Sexist." www.internationalwomensday.com #PovertyisSexist Nowhere on earth do women have as many opportunities as men. Nowhere. But girls and women in the poorest countries, that inequality is amplified.

March 9th – Daylight Saving Time Begins tonight.

Faith Development – Introduction to the Gospel according to John by Michael Cameron

"But divine life emanates from a third mysterious presence, "the Spirit of truth" (14:17). The Father and the son together send the Spirit (15:26), who teaches the disciples about what Jesus said and who he was (14:26; 16:13). By the Spirit's indwelling, divine life flows through them like a river (7:38-39; 14-17). John depicts the disciples as fruitful vine branches that the Father lovingly tends (15:1-5). Omitting all other ethical instruction, this Gospel says that the only measure of the disciples' fruitfulness is their love for one another (13:34-35; 15:12-17). True to character, this Gospel is sometimes one-sided. John's sense of Jesus' real humanity is relatively weak; and though teaching that "salvation is from the Jews (4:22), it can be hostile toward Judaism (8:21-26; 37-59). John must be balanced by the rest of the New Testament and the Church's later teaching. But its profound spiritual theology of the Word made flesh (1:14) has decisively shaped Christian theology, spirituality, and art, ever since it was written in the late first century." AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 11

Doing Justice and Creating Hope – a quote for the week

"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show another let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it; for I shall not pass this way again." Author unknown

Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – A reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker Who examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society. Global warming is one problem that could have been avoided if a multi-system thought process had been engaged in the development of engines/machinery that use fossil fuels. It is only one source of the warming problem, but if developers and engineers had considered the long term effects these engines would have had, we might not be in the situation we

are in. It is unfortunate the economies drive much of the global decision-making. Our students may be able to assist us to make better choices in the future.

Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Discipleship and Solidarity

Discipleship and Solidarity are moral virtues that are a particular focus for our Church during the Lenten season. Discipleship is about becoming a true follower of Jesus and living his teachings in a serious way. Jesus wants us to love everyone, even our enemies. It is not an easy goal but the saints show us that it is possible.

Living Our Mission Statement

Dedicated to the desire to live the values of Jesus – Desire is planted in our hearts by God. If we don't seem to desire living the values of Jesus, my spiritual director is always saying to me: desire to desire...at least you are moving in the right direction.

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – Fasting is an excellent tool to cleanse the body of the chemicals we put in when eating foods that are not whole and natural. Eating one regular sized meal and two smaller simple meals and drinking plenty of water is the fast that is called for on Ash Wednesday. When you feel hungry, thank God that it is not the situation you live in day in and day out...like some many through the global south.

Christian Meditation Insight – “**Daily Wisdom** – God is love, and whoever dwells in love is dwelling in God and God in him. This is for us the perfection of love: to have confidence on the Day of Judgment. And this we can have because, even in this world, we are as he is. There is no room for fear in love. Perfect love banishes fear, for fear brings with it the pains of judgment, and anyone who is afraid has not attained to love in its perfection. We love because he loved us first. (1 John 4:16-19)”

Aspects of Love 3, Laurence Freeman

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2012 Calls to Action

“In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

Missing Children and Burial Information

72. We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Twenty-first Century Learning

<https://ingeniumcanada.org/> Teachers win a video call with astronaut David Saint-Jacques! He is presently upon the International Space Station. Go to website for this opportunity and much more.

<https://pastoral.center/lent> > some free Lenten resources for the classroom. It takes a day for the etransfer of free resources to your email account.

<https://www.devp.org/en/lent/resources> > Shared Lent resources are available for download. Check it out!

<http://theturtleislandnews.com/> the news from an indigenous perspective

www.biblestudytools.com

<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer>

<http://www.sacredspace.ie/plain/daily-prayer> > joint ministry of Irish Jesuits and Loyola Press

www.gratefulness.org > subscribe to this daily email to provide yourself with messages of gratefulness

<http://wccm.org/> > World Community for Christian Meditation > This is a site for Christian Meditation for teachers and students alike.

www.CARFLEO.com > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources> > Resources for teaching difficult topics in history

Saints Kit – All the saints of the Roman Calendar and More by Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D., and other Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon

“St. Casimir - March 4th – Saints are seldom found in palaces or castles. St. Casimir, prince of Poland, is an exception. He is known as “brother and defender of the poor.” Much of Casimir’s strength of character came from the influence of his teacher, John Dlugosz. John was a Polish historian who saw in Casimir the natural gifts of leadership and idealism. He instilled in Casimir a desire to love God’s law and the live by his conscience. By the time Casimir was thirteen, his goodness was so well known that nobles of Hungary, who were not happy with their king, wanted Casimir as ruler. Casimir’s father sent him with an army to take over the country. Pay was low for the soldiers, and many deserted. Casimir realized that the enemy outnumbered them and the battle would be a waste of lives. He also learned that the pope had asked his father not to attack. Therefore, Casimir returned home with no kingdom. Casimir’s father was angry and disgraced. He banished his son to a nearby castle for three months. There Casimir studied and prayed. He resolved never to be involved in war again and to govern only by peaceful means. He also decided never to marry. This frustrated his parents because he refused to marry the daughter of Emperor Frederick III. While his father was on a tour of Lithuania, Casimir governed Poland for a short time. He died of a lung disease at the age of twenty-six. Casimir loved Our Lady very much and every day repeated the hymn, “Daily, Daily Sing to Mary.” He asked that this song be buried with him. Casimir saw that his first duty was to God. It is good to pray to know our responsibilities to God and to be strong enough to fulfill them. *St. Casimir, pray for [our] world leaders!*” Card 27

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O’Brien – Catechist February 2019 page 18
Quiz Mash-Up A little on Lent, a little on youth ministry

1. Sunday school/faith formation/catechesis and youth ministry are total opposites and have nothing in common. **T or F**
2. Growing in virtue and moral living is a project that lasts _____.
A. one’s whole life B. only during the teen years C. until you become an expert D. a week
3. A popular Lenten activity is _____.
A. eating pizza on Friday **B. the Stations of the Cross** C. praying 20 rosaries a day D. complaining
4. Youth ministry is a chance for teens to get away from their families. **T or F**
5. Jesus said: “Let the _____ come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14).
A. children B. bishops C. saints D. Pharisees

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O’Brien – Catechist January 2019 page 28
Catechesis and Catechists

1. The person who teaches people about the faith is called a _____.
A. volunteer B. catechist C. manager D. Bible expert
2. A catechist teaches _____.
A. Catholic doctrine B. math C. music D. Latin
3. The primary catechist in every child’s life is his or her _____.
A. youth minister B. religion teacher C. priest D. parents
4. Catechists only teach children. **T or F**
5. Catechists use both the Bible and _____ to authentically teach the Catholic faith.
A. Instagram B. Twitter C. Tradition D. Fortnite

Taking Jesus to the Movies ...A blog by Pat Carter

Bao – A Canadian artist and director, Domee Shi won an Oscar for her Animated Short by this title. She worked with Pixar for this film. It is about a Chinese dumpling that comes to life so a Chinese lady raises it as her child. It is heartwarming. Domee encouraged all “nerdy” girls who draw to share their stories. I give this movie /5 hearts.

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

The Nature of the Beast by Louise Penny. A highly spirited child is found dead and this leads to a serious problem for the villagers of Three Pines. Former Chief Inspector Gamache is drawn into the mystery to assist the Sûreté de Québec. Relationships are stressed once more in the little village. I give this book 😊😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces

Catholic WORD of the Week – For Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies

“Sacramental – Sacred Signs, bearing a certain likeness to the sacraments, by which spiritual effects are signified and obtained by the intercession of the Church (Canon 1166). Some sacramental are objects (e.g. holy water, scapulars, medals, rosaries). Others are actions (e.g. blessings and exorcisms). Sacramentals differ from sacraments in several ways, chiefly in the manner of institution (Christ instituted the sacraments, whereas the Church institutes and can abolish sacramental) and the manner of imparting grace (a sacrament imparts grace in virtue of the rite itself, while the grace of the sacramental depends on the dispositions of the recipient and the intercession of the Church). The number of sacramental is variable.” Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia, page 848.

Something new for 2019

Church bulletins – these sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at masses.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be ‘What is Hell?’ Come early and listen to our choir practice.